

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Attorney Docket No. 040679-1417 *#2  
3-23-02  
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In re patent application of

Kouichi AKABORI et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filed: JAN 11 2001

For: ADAPTIVE CRUISE CONTROL SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR AUTOMOTIVE VEHICLE WITH INTER-VEHICLE DISTANCE CONTROL FUNCTION

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered into the application:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please replace claims 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 10, and 12 as originally filed with the following amended claims:

*Cub 3*  
*A1*  
--2. (Amended) An adaptive cruise control system for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the delay providing section provides a dead time for one of the detected velocities of the vehicle and preceding vehicle which is used to set the target inter-vehicle distance.

3. (Amended) An adaptive cruise control system for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the delay providing section provides a larger dead time for one of the detected velocities of the vehicle and preceding vehicle which is used to set the target inter-vehicle distance as either one of the detected velocities of the vehicle or the preceding vehicle becomes smaller.

4. (Amended) An adaptive cruise control system for an automotive vehicle as claimed in claim 2, wherein the delay providing section carries out a low-pass filtering for